

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 431
By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Maurice Roberts of
Pulaski.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Maurice Roberts; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Roberts was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he was an estimable educator who distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Roberts served with acumen and alacrity as Academic Dean and Professor of Education and Sociology at Martin Methodist College for more than twenty exemplary years; and

WHEREAS, he was an extremely talented and compassionate educator who worked assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, he truly served as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel were highly valued by those who were fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Roberts was born and raised in Millington; he graduated from Millington Central High School in 1954, and was drafted soon afterward to service in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, he served in the Army with great honor for several years, stationed in Arkansas, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and the Republic of Korea; he left active service in 1961, having earned the gratitude of a nation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Roberts graduated from Memphis State University in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science degree; he earned a Master of Science from that institution in 1965; and

WHEREAS, he pursued further graduate studies at the University of Tennessee, from which school he received a Doctorate of Education in 1968; during his studies in Knoxville, he worked in the University's School Planning Laboratory, and he was inducted into the Phi Delta Kappa professional honorary in 1967; and

WHEREAS, after his graduation, Dr. Roberts accepted a position as a consultant with the North Carolina Department of Instruction; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, he became the Vice President of Planning and Development at Arkansas Polytechnic College, where he remained until 1973, when he returned to Tennessee as a consultant for the Tennessee State Department of Education; he remained devoted to the pursuit of quality education throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Roberts was an active and devout member of the St. Andrew Memorial United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a Sunday school teacher and frequent lay speaker; he served on a number of committees of the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, in addition, he was a 32nd Degree Mason, Scottish Rite and York Rite; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Roberts was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Nancy Roberts, and was the proud parent of Lilly Roberts Rayson and William D. Roberts; he was further blessed with four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Maurice Roberts leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; he will be surely missed by those people who knew him and loved him; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Maurice Roberts, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Roberts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.